Monday Detroit Edition

another dead case

Dispatch 5-25-67

North end of Dr Posey - Cal Hell Gene Rush Wing aide

Novel Sues Garrison, Aides for $50 Million

By JAMES RICHARDS
Of The Dispatch Staff

Gordon Novel, located Thursday in a motel in Fayetteville, N.C., where he said he is recuperating from a gunshot wound, filed suit agains t N ew Orleans Dist. against New Orleans Dist. supporters for more than $50 million Wednesday.

Novel, wanted as a material witness in Garrison's Kennedy assassination probe and also on a burglary charge, talked with The Dispatch Thursday morning from his attorney's motel room in Fayetteville. The attorney, Jerry Weiner of Columbus, is involved in the defense of a murder case in Fayetteville.

NOVEL TOLD The Dispatch he fled from Nashville following the reported shooting Sunday night because he feared Garrison would file more charges against him, necessitating posting of more bond money. He said he did not see his assailant.

After his arrest in Gahanna April 1, he was freed in Columbus on $10,000.

Novel reported he drove first to Louisville, Ky., Sunday night where he received emergency treatment for a bullet wound in his right shoulder. — Meat like Weiner

NOVEL SAID he was hit by fragments o fa soft tipped or "dum dum" bullet. From Louisville he said he went to Cincinnati where he received further treatment, then on to Washington, D.C.

Later, he flew to Fayetteville to join Weiner.

After Weiner filed the damage suit in federal court in New Orleans Wednesday, Novel issued a statement through Weiner claiming his innocence of any burglary charge.

CONFIRMING a speculative story in the April 13 issue of The Dispatch, Novel claimed that at the time of the so-called 1961 burglary of a muntions dump in Houma, La., he "was an operative of the CIA as related to the Bay of Pigs invasion (of Cuba)."

"The Houma incident," the statement declared, "was not a burglary, it was a guided necessary operation."

"My client," Weiner wrote, "has collected unassailable evidence that Mr. Garrison, his staff and supporters are guilty of many crimes, ranging from intimidation on up."

WEINER ADDED, "Mr. Garrison will shortly release a letter by my client proving this (CIA) involvement."

Just last Sunday, Garrison contended the CIA was aware of a plot to kill Kennedy but was covering it up.

Wednesday afternoon, Governor Rhodes' office received a revised extradition request from Louisiana Gov. John McKeithen seeking Novel's return to that state on a charge of conspiracy to commit burglary.

IT WAS on the same charge a month ago that Rhodes' office refused to honor the extradition request because the papers were "faulty."

A Rhodes' aide said a decision on the latest legal papers would be made this weekend.

Novel, 29, a former French Quarter bar owner, contends Garrision's accusations have ruined his "reputation as a man of honesty, honor and probity."

THE SUIT seeks $10 million in damages from Garrison and $1 million from each member of the Truth and Consequences, Inc., the group formed in March by about 50 New Orleans businessmen who agreed to financially back the district attorney's assassination probe.

The damage suit stated that until Garrison's investigation began, Novel had never been "suspected of or charged with crimes of being a material witness, conspiring to commit simple burglary, theft of merchandise or having knowledge of a conspiracy to assassinate the late John F. Kennedy."

NOVEL TOLD The Dispatch that more law suits are planned, including a $10 million suit against McKeithen; a $5 million suit against author-attorney Mark Lane whose book "Rush to Judgment" claims Lee Harvey Oswald was innocent; and other $1 million suits against associates of Garrison.

Novel promised that any proceeds from the lawsuits would be donated to the Kennedy Memorial Library. He said he was planning to return to Columbus Thursday or Friday.